

The Times Dispatch

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1913.

AN OUTGROWN BARGAIN.

Both Virginia and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad acted according to modern ideas of public service in compromising the tax exemption controversy. The sole qualification of approval is that the agreement should have come sooner. The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac might have been benefited by an extension of service that would have more than repaid any concessions as to past taxes. The whole difficulty was the result of an outgrown bargain. The process of industrial evolution and changed transportation methods had left stultified the provisions of a charter that may have been both logical and fair at the time of its inception. But the situation had become as archaic and obsolete as the first locomotive, and readjustment was inevitable.

We are glad that this readjustment came without the troubles that have beset other States in handling similar railroad problems. The question was not complicated by the bitter feeling against a selfish and destructive monopoly that has elsewhere aligned the people and the railroads in a costly struggle. The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac has given good service and never tried to throttle competition. It has claimed special privileges, but it has not sacrificed its own interests and those of the public in the ways that have recently aroused all New England against the New Haven and Hartford and its president, Mollen.

Now the railroad stands on an equal footing with other State carriers. It will pay its just share of taxes. In return it should have a guarantee of the right to grow. That it has not grown in the past has been due to the fact that the price of growth was too costly. This price has been paid, and what Virginia desires is an extension of the same kind of service that has been hitherto rendered. The supreme interest of a community is in getting the service its people need, rather than an increment of taxes. If, under a new and modern charter, the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac becomes more than a connecting link and expands to reach territory now without proper transportation facilities, the present compromise will mean no sacrifice, but a larger income. The payment of its just taxes will not be a burden, but an incident of growth.

THE DREIBUND RENEWAL.

Considerable surprise has been expressed in this country that the renewal of the triple alliance, Austria-Hungary and Italy, which, so far as the last named power is concerned, was imposed upon her by Bismarck, evoked so little comment and caused so little excitement in Europe, especially in Great Britain, France and Russia, the countries party to the triple entente. Also surprise has been manifested that Italy should have been so "pre-emptively" willing to renew in the face of the undeniable unpopularity of the pact with such a large element of the Italian masses. It had even been suggested in certain circles that with the expiration of the agreement, Italy might take occasion to detach herself from her allies and make overtures to the opposing combination, the entente.

As to neither point is the explanation very far to seek. Touching the question of detachment and the influence of popular Italian feeling against the Dreibund, Italy is no longer the poor and dependent nation of the triple entente group. She is in position to demand equal value with the other two members, and in some respects to dictate to them. Moreover, the middle of the Balkan stream was not a place for swamping her. Regarding the equally surprising willingness of the renewal was expressed in a recent speech of Giovanni Giolitti, the Italian Foreign Minister. Italy's obligations under the triple alliance, he said, among other things, did not prevent her from maintaining the most cordial relations with the powers in the triple entente. Italy, he affirmed, had been an obliging ally, and she would continue to be so. But the "loving of certain streets for a few hours each day would be an admirable answer to a part of our restoration problem."

ORGANIZING THE RETAILER.

The injunction asked for by the government against one of the leading manufacturers of breakfast food, the Shuman law, the government claims that by maintaining a certain variety of wrapper, in which the breakfast food is sold, and by compelling retailers to dispose of this package at a fixed price, the manufacturer has by subterfuge created monopoly conditions and a "restraint of trade" which is opposed to public policy.

The sum of the marquis's explanation is that, notwithstanding her adherence to the Dreibund, Italy has an understanding with two members of the triple entente—Great Britain and France—which clothes her with the balance of power in the old Bismarckian pact, and which, the marquis argued by implication, made for assuring European peace.

Indeed, Italy's Foreign Minister merely put in words what the logic of the situation pointed, and that is that Italy's Tripolitan acquisition created necessarily an offset to any menace to the triple entente involved in her remaining in the Dreibund. In the light of the considerations we have cited, surprise at the Dreibund renewal and its failure to disturb European equilibrium passes.

COMMON SENSE INAUGURATIONS.

The old cry about democratic inaugurations is going up over the land. Woodrow Wilson says he would be glad to walk to the Capitol, but that the crowd would probably make the attempt futile. But in any event he desires a simple ceremony. The wise will agree with him. They are not sticking for democracy, but they would be pleased with a little common sense and dignity. Thomas Jefferson may, or may not, have ridden on horseback to take the oath. But what was simple and appropriate in those early days of the republic may be silly now. It would not be democratic for Mr. Wilson to ride a horse down Pennsylvania Avenue. It would be affected and ineffectual. Times have changed, and what is proper now is the simplest and most direct way of getting there. An automobile ought to answer this year; an aeroplane, maybe, fifty years hence.

From Washington comes rumor of various other inaugural perplexities. Many thinking people are opposed to elaborate displays that degenerate into commercial ventures and advertising, with the Chief Executive as the star attraction. There is opposition to the inaugural ball on the ground that it overturns the Pension Building for weeks and keeps the veterans from getting their checks on time. A single public reception is advocated in its place. Then the ministers are excited over the prospect of having the bunny hug and the turkey trot profane the solemnity of the occasion. They want to know what kind of revision upward the new President favors along this line.

A GOOD USE FOR STREETS.

We pointed out recently how the city of Denver took thought of its birds and their comfort. In the following paragraphs of an order from the Mayor to the Park Board the same human spirit is shown toward children's play. The municipality feels its responsibility for the proper provision of innocent recreation.

It is my desire that you select and designate certain streets and avenues in different sections of the city to be used by the children of the city exclusively for coasting purposes during the coming holiday season, providing the weather conditions are favorable for this excellent and wholesome outdoor sport.

These places should be made on the lines and should not cross any car tracks and be free from all dangerous interferences.

THE DANGERS OF LIVING.

Modern life seems to become more and more a game of tag with the nimble germ. The wayfarer cannot enjoy the most natural pleasures for fear he will catch something or give something to somebody else. The latest assaults of a fanatic science are against whistling and sneezing. A letter to the New York Times points out the deadly possibilities of the sneeze: "Daily we see people thoughtlessly sneezing into the air. This morning I saw a faultlessly dressed gentleman in a car sneeze four different times in a few minutes and using no handkerchief when he did so." Manifestly, this human plague ought to be put in a dungeon along with his sinister sneeze. The law should see to it. If there is no other way to stop the sneeze, cut off his head. He will be just as happy without it as alive and under the frightful necessity of thoughtfully sneezing per schedule. This is tyranny. If sneezing and yawning are not inalienable human rights, then democracy is a jest.

When folks began to fidget on a railroad for the town, Old Uncle Peter was dead set on turning it down. He said a railroad is all bosh. Won't help this town a mite. 'Twill only kill our sheep and hawks. You'll see that I am right."

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

One of the pool balls suddenly flew off the table and disappeared during a game in the Golden Nugget saloon five weeks ago, and its whereabouts was a mystery until yesterday, when Amariah Wilson, our township artist found it in Grandpa Bibbins's whiskers. "Am" got a drink for taking it back to the Golden Nugget, and says he is going to examine all whiskers in the future. Who knows but some day he may find a piano or a forty-horsepower automobile.

Publicity and the Stock Exchange.

Appropos of the investigations of the Pujo committee, a recent issue of the New York Journal of Commerce contains a very sane and significant article by John Moody, the editor of Moody's Magazine, relative to stock exchange methods and stock manipulations. The opinion of this eminent writer is that publicity is the cure for the fundamental evils connected with speculation in stocks. Manipulation of stocks, he declares—

"is based on false reports and false rumors in practically every case. No real campaign for the 'manipulation' of a stock can be carried very far without accompanying reports which undertake to account for the action of the stock. It is true that a situation may now and then be brought about whereby a stock will be pushed up or pushed down by sheer force, but unless some 'news' accompanies the movement to explain it, such a movement will not have any staying power, and, likely as not, will react on those who are engineering it. The real manipulative movement is the one which is carried on in conjunction with 'news'—'inside information,' etc., which enables the manipulators to accomplish their design. The public is fooled, and it is the purpose of the managers of the movement to fool the public."

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On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

The Wet Blanket.
Old Uncle Peter never had a single happy day. Because, you see, old Uncle Peter just wasn't built that way. Whenever the sky was cloudless and the sun came out real bright, "A weather breeder," he would say, "You'll see that I am right."

When anybody had the sand to open up a store, Old Uncle Peter would roar: "By golly, but that man's a chump. Times are so good that tight that he will never make his salt. You'll see that I am right."

When folks began to fidget on a railroad for the town, Old Uncle Peter was dead set on turning it down. He said a railroad is all bosh. Won't help this town a mite. 'Twill only kill our sheep and hawks. You'll see that I am right."

One day old Uncle Peter died. A cynic to the end. He kicked until the very last. But still he was contented as with death he made his try. Because he never really knew how much of life he'd missed.

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One of the pool balls suddenly flew off the table and disappeared during a game in the Golden Nugget saloon five weeks ago, and its whereabouts was a mystery until yesterday, when Amariah Wilson, our township artist found it in Grandpa Bibbins's whiskers. "Am" got a drink for taking it back to the Golden Nugget, and says he is going to examine all whiskers in the future. Who knows but some day he may find a piano or a forty-horsepower automobile.

It don't pay to rub a cat or a plug hat the wrong way. T. Ebert Peav expects to leave soon for the city to accept a lucrative position as second mandolin in a barber shop.

Amos Butts, livery, feed and sales stable and undertaking with meat, fish and dispatch, also folding chairs to rent, says he has got a row of riding which went better than three-ton on a kite-shaped track to trade for three bushel of potatoes and a cord of wood. If the other fellow will throw in a whirler, grindstone, a box of red herring and a set of false teeth suitable for middle-aged men, Amos will throw in a bridge, a grobe, one bushel corn, set of hobbles, one good meat grinder, second-hand zinc board, one horse nozzle (slightly worn), two volumes of Swede Bergian religion and first-class wire dishrag. Here's a chance for a dicker gent.

Mrs. Amson Frisby told a friend that she cut Mrs. Hank Tunns dead the other day. Constance Extra Hand is working on the case, but he ain't found no murder clue as yet. Grandpa Bibbins has got a new set of false teeth made out of second-hand planer keys he got at a bargain down to the city.

The Rev. Mr. Hudmott says there is one good thing about an atheist. He never goes to sleep in church. Mrs. Ansel Hanks is improving considerably at this writing. The new trimmer at Miss Amy Stubbs's millinery emporium has two colors of hair, dark near the scalp and yaller at the ends. Elmer Spunk expects to hang her a May basket next spring.

Sometime must be dead in Tagg Wilkin's family. He is wearing his pants at half-mast at this writing. Arrangements are being made to receive the next message of the President by rounds at the harness shop. Young fellows part their hair in the middle and show that they have got a soft spot in their heads, and old fellows part their hair on the side so as to cover it up.

Noah Webster Down to Date.

Contortionist—Man who can undress in the upper berth of a sleeper.

Contributor—An ultimate consumer.

Convention—A crooked political meeting very popular with the ancients.

Copperheads—Man who does not agree with you on politics. See also Malefactor, Demagogue, Imbecile, Liar, Horatius, etc.

Cornet—An instrument of torture.

Corset—A gay decoy, which doesn't deceive anybody.

Courtesy—A period in a man's life when the foolish house gates are just yawning for him.

Cow—An old-fashioned animal that will never be superseded by the automobile.

Cuban—Man who isn't happy unless he's unhappy.

Voice of the People

New Year Appeal for Allies.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I know full well that a generous public has been sorely afflicted already with overmuch discussion of the Alliance case, and that our Governor has been patient and long-suffering in his toleration of so much gratuitous advice as to his duty in the matter, given not infrequently by persons totally ignorant of the real circumstances surrounding the Hillville tragedy.

Thirty thousand people in Virginia have petitioned Governor Mann to commute the death sentence of Claude Allen. Inspired by no hysteria or morbid sensibility, I am sure that the fact that the fact in the case warrants such commutation.

I have no desire to argue the case.

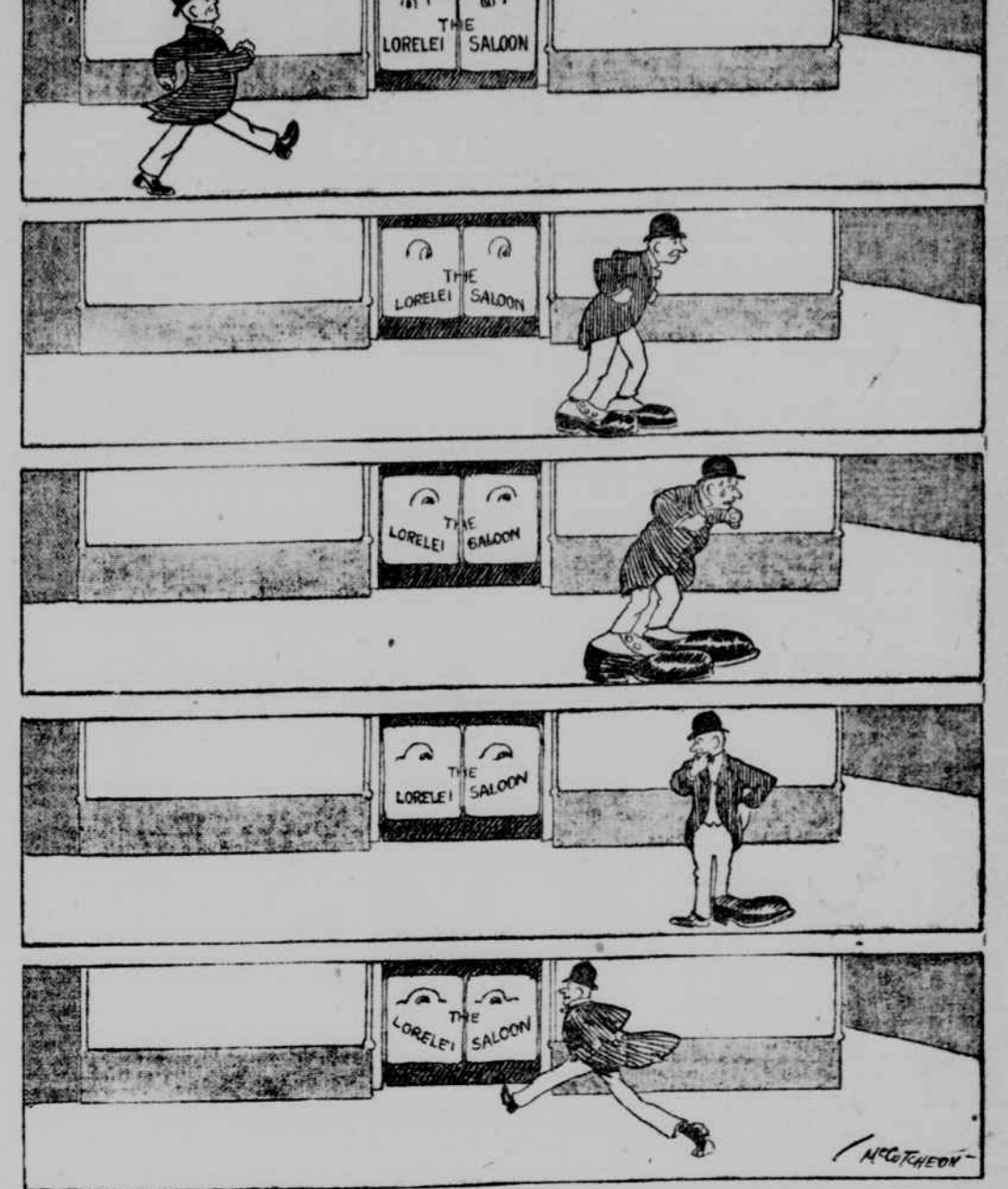
Abe Martin

Miss Tawney Apple has a uncle that's a author an' writes safety razor ads for th' magazine. Th' whole chin'le pictures th' harem dances an' a delightful local flavor in th' Bulger was.

THE GOOD RESOLUTIONS DIE YOUNG.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Died—Yesterday, between two and three o'clock, Master G. Resolution, aged two days, of drowning. Funeral services were at once held, at which male quartettes united in singing the touching old dirge entitled "Take the wagon home, John, it cannot hold us all."—(Distillers Weekly please copy.)

RECEIVING BIDS ON CONVICT LABOR

Proposals on New Contract May Be Made Up to Noon To-Morrow.

Bids will be received up to noon tomorrow at the office of the Superintendent of the State Penitentiary for the employment of convict labor and the women in the State prison after May 1 of this year. On that day the old contract with the Thacher Shoe Company will expire.

Up to last evening no bid had been received by Superintendent James B. Wood. He did not expect to receive any propositions until about the last day. He has, however, been in receipt of a number of inquiries concerning the terms of the contract and the requirements and restrictions imposed by statute and by the directors of the penitentiary.

Among these inquiries was one from the Bellanca-Sterling Manufacturing Company, shirt makers, which was only bidden when the directors last winter invited tentative bids for the contract, for the information of the General Assembly. No action was then taken on the proposition.

So far, the Thacher Shoe Company has given no indication of its intention in the matter. It was not a bidder last winter, and it has been the prevailing impression that it would not again ask for the contract. The concern evidently likes Richmond, for it expects to add to its plant here for the employment of free labor. It pays only 42 cents per day for men and 28 cents for women, and under modern conditions this price is regarded as an extremely low one. The directors, it is likely too low. The directors, it is likely too low. The directors, it is likely too low.

CRUSADE AGAINST SPITTING ON CARS

Offender in Police Court Fined \$2. Ordinance Must Be Enforced.

The first case in a crusade against persons who expectorate in street cars was in Police Court yesterday morning. The offender, Sam Glover, colored, was fined \$2.

Orders have been issued to all police officers to use every effort to break up this disgusting practice, which is not only a source of annoyance, but a menace to public health.

Detective Gentry arrested Glover, whom he saw expectorate on a car of the Virginia Railway and Power Company.

Numerous complaints by citizens brought the matter to the attention of Chief of Police Werner. As soon as he learned that the ordinance against this nuisance was not being properly enforced, he at once issued a general order to all officers. There is a State law against this practice, as well as city ordinance.

M'NAGAL TAKEN BACK

He Goes to Los Angeles, Where Case Will Be Disposed Of.

Indianapolis, Ind., January 2.—Orville E. McManigal, the star witness for the government in the recent dynamite trial, is on his way back to California, where his case will probably be disposed of soon.

Deputy Sheriff Malcolm McLaren, of Los Angeles, has McManigal in charge and will reach Los Angeles probably Friday morning. The star witness was brought to Indianapolis about October 1, when the dynamite trial started, and has been confined in the Federal building ever since.

RAGSDALE GIVES BOND

Underwriter Accused of Complicity in Knabe Murder Case.

Indianapolis, Ind., January 2.—A. M. Ragdsdale, the underwriter, who, with Dr. William B. Craig, head of a veterinary college, was indicted for connection with the death of Dr. Helen W. Knabe, returned late last night from Columbus, Ind., where he conducted a funeral, and now is under \$10,000 bond.

Dr. Craig, who was indicted for murder, was released last night under \$10,000 bond. Ragdsdale is accused of being an accessory after the fact, it being charged that he destroyed evidence in the case.

? Two Questions ?

What kind of Coal do you use in your furnace?

Do you get a maximum result from a minimum cost?

If you don't, there is a reason. Pocahontas Washed Pea Coal gives a maximum result at a minimum cost. Run of the mines is not "just as good." The price, \$4.50 per ton, delivered. Call Madison 177.

Samuel H. Cottrell & Son,

FUEL DEALERS.

and ask for POCAHONTAS WASHED PEA COAL. Excellent for cooking, too.

Richmond, Va., January 2, 1913.